ARTHROSCOPIC IMPEDANCE PROBE
TO DETECT CARTILAGE DEGENERATION

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

5   This invention was made with government support under Grant No. AR 42285

awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the

invention.

PRIORITY INFORMATION

This application claims priority from provisional application Ser. No.

10   60/179,820 filed February 2, 2000. This application is a divisional application of Ser.

No. 10/324,717 filed December 19, 2002 which is a divisional application of Ser. No.

09/776,254 filed February 2, 2001, which claims priority from provisional application

Ser. No. 60/179,820 filed February 2, 2000.

15   **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to the field of non-destructive arthroscopic diagnostic

probes, and in particular to non-destructive arthroscopic diagnostic probes for detecting

degeneration of articular cartilage utilizing impedance measurements.

Articular Cartilage

20   The function of organs in the human body are a direct consequence of their inherent

structure. The function of an organ as a whole is more than the sum total of its

individual constituents. Articular cartilage (AC) is a rich and illustrative example. An

understanding of the composition and physical properties of AC are essential to

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to provide the appropriate sponsorship and priority information, and to cancel the previously elected group of claims in the parent application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version and clean copy of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Marked Up Version of Specification Page 1" and " Clean Copy of Specification Page 1."

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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